

Message Text

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52

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 L-03 RSC-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00 INR-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ IAI: HHSTACKHOUSE: KHA

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APPROVED BY NEA/ IAI - H. H. STACKHOUSE

L/ NEA - MR. BROWN (DRAFT)

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R 110115 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SOCI, IS

SUBJECT: RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA
LITIGATION

1. ARCHIMANDRITE ANTHONY GRABBE OF ROCOR HAS AGAIN APPROACHED DEPT SEEKING USG INVOLVEMENT IN ROCOR LITIGATION IN ISRAELI COURTS. HE PROPOSED TO DEPTOFF APRIL 3 (MEMCON POUCHED) THAT USG SERVE AS INTERMEDIARY TO GOI INFORMING IT OF ROCOR' S READINESS TO SETTLE OUT OF COURT. IN APRIL 5 LETTER GRABBE REPEATED REQUEST AND, EVOKING THREAT OF SOVIET AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS IN HOLY LAND THROUGH MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE, DECLARED THAT " ANY DIPLOMATIC LEVER THAT CAN BE USED TO ASSURE OUR MISSION AND SOCIETY, BOTH INCORPORATED IN AMERICA, OF A FAIR TRIAL IN ISRAELI COURTS SHOULD BE USED."

2. WE INCLINED TO BELIEVE-- AND SO INFORMED GRABBE APRIL 3-- NO GOOD PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY OUR DEPARTING FROM PRINCIPLE NON- INVOLVEMENT ROCOR LITIGATION. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENT WOULD BE BETTER BE MADE THROUGH LAWYERS FOR BOTH SIDES.
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GRABBE BELIEVES THAT IF ROCOR TAKES INITIATIVE IN THIS WAY
IT MAY BE INTERPRETED AS AN " ADMISSION OF WEAKNESS."

3. DO POSTS HAVE ANY REASON BELIEVE THAT ROCOR NOT BEING
TREATED FAIRLY IN ISRAELI COURTS? IT OUR IMPRESSION THAT

GRABBE HAS NOT BEEN IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH POSTS, PRE-
FERRING INSTEAD TO MAKE HIS CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON DURING
HIS FREQUENT VISITS HERE. IS THIS CORRECT? ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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